

LGBTQ+ REDISTRICTING

Equality California Institute

California Citizens Redistricting Commission Meeting

April 27, 2021

ABOUT EQUALITY CALIFORNIA

Equality California is the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) civil rights organization with over 900,000 members.

Equality California brings the voices of LGBTQ+ people and allies to institutions of power in California and across the United States, striving to create a world that is healthy, just, and fully equal for all LGBTQ+ people.

AGENDA

- ▶ California's LGBTQ+ Population
- ▶ Understanding Discrimination and Marginalization
- ▶ LGBTQ+ Contributions in CA's Redistricting
- ▶ Q&A

CALIFORNIA'S LGBTQ+ POPULATION

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▶ EQUALITY: MADE IN CALIFORNIA

- ▶ California is home to the nation's largest statewide LGBTQ+ population — and key LGBTQ+ population centers [West Hollywood, the Castro in San Francisco, Hillcrest in San Diego].
 - ▶ Gallup estimates over 2 million Californians — 5.3% adults — identify as LGBTQ+. [Feb. 2021]
 - ▶ Our internal polling shows that approximately 12% of registered California voters identify as LGBTQ+. [March 2017]
 - ▶ We estimate our actual LGBTQ+ population to be closer to **4 million** — **10% of California's total population** — based on the impact of stigma and long-term lack of acceptance.



CALIFORNIA'S LGBTQ+ POPULATION

▶ LGBTQ+ DIVERSITY

- ▶ A majority (52%) of LGBTQ+ adults in California identify as Latino/a, Asian, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander or multiracial. [Williams Institute/Gallup Daily Tracking – Feb. 2021]
- ▶ An estimated 1.3 million LGBTQ+ adult immigrants reside in the U.S. today, with approximately 22% of them undocumented. [Williams Institute – Feb. 2021]
- ▶ An estimated 59,600 undocumented LGBTQ+ adults live in California. [Williams Institute – Feb. 2021]



UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION & MARGINALIZATION

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- ▶ LGBTQ+ people have been historically underrepresented in the halls of power and frequently denied access to key social institutions and support networks. Despite rising acceptance of LGBTQ+ people, the community continues to fight for basic civil rights while experiencing hate and discrimination that perpetuates disparities in health and wellbeing.

Healthcare
Access

Mental Health
Disparities

Youth &
Schools

HIV/AIDS

UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION & MARGINALIZATION

▶ BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

- ▶ In 1978, the Briggs Initiative sought to ban LGBTQ+ people from working in California schools.
- ▶ In 2000, California voters passed Proposition 22 (the Knight Initiative), which limited marriage to between one man and one woman.
- ▶ California voters passed Proposition 8 in 2008 and took away the freedom to marry for same-gender couples.
- ▶ In 2014, proponents of a veto referendum for AB 1266 sought to repeal nondiscrimination protections for transgender students, gathering nearly 620,000 signatures.



UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION & MARGINALIZATION

▶ BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

- ▶ HIV is criminalized in more than half of states, and **gay and bisexual men are still restricted from donating blood**, regardless of HIV-status.
- ▶ Transgender and gender nonconforming people have **extraordinary difficulty accessing affirming healthcare** and mental health services.
- ▶ Across the country, there have been hundreds legislative attempts and ballot measures (both successful and unsuccessful) to restrict or eliminate basic civil rights for LGBTQ+ people.
- ▶ This year alone, more than half of state legislatures across the country (28) are actively considering bills to restrict or eliminate basic civil rights for transgender people.

UNDERSTANDING DISCRIMINATION & MARGINALIZATION

▶ STIGMA, HATE, AND DISCRIMINATION

- ▶ Transgender, specifically transgender women of color, **experience violence everyday and are being murdered**, but fear turning to the police for help.
- ▶ LGBTQ+ children make up an estimated **40% of youth experiencing homelessness**, largely because they so frequently do not find acceptance at home.
- ▶ LGBTQ+ elected officials and public figures are forced to **endure highly publicized homophobic, biphobic and transphobic attacks**, with a record number of attacks documented during the 2020 election cycle.

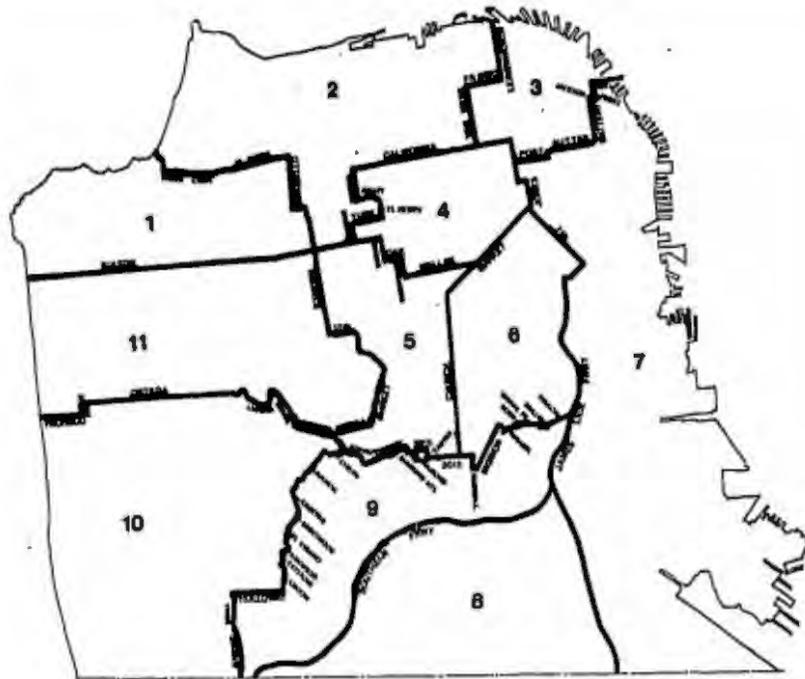


LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN CALIFORNIA'S REDISTRICTING

LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN CA'S REDISTRICTING

▶ CALIFORNIA'S HISTORY

- ▶ In 1976, San Francisco voters narrowly passed Proposition T (District Election of Supervisors), which allowed the LGBTQ+ community to elevate leadership from within their communities.



What Supervisorial Districts Would Be Under Proposition T



Harvey Milk
San Francisco Board of
Supervisors [1978]

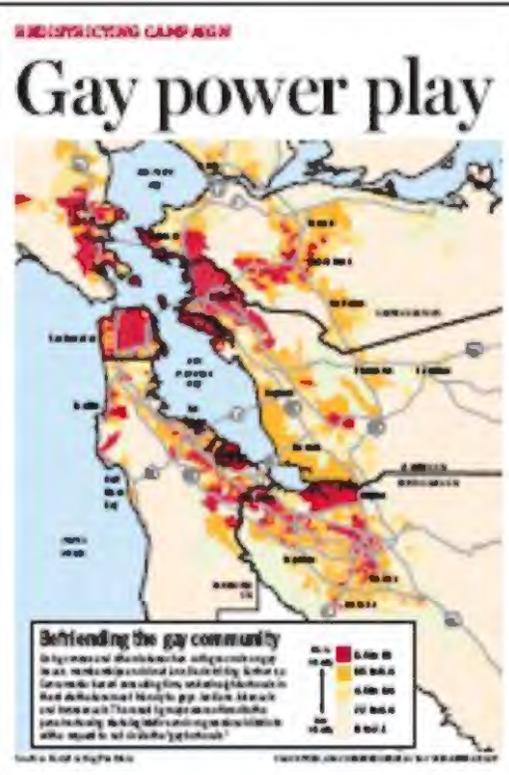
LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN CA'S REDISTRICTING

▶ CALIFORNIA'S HISTORY

- ▶ In 2011, Equality California worked with Redistricting Partners and other LGBTQ+ organizations on the development of a plan, strategy, dataset and testimony before the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and local redistricting, resulting in several districts that maximized the strength of the LGBTQ+ vote and representation of LGBTQ+ people.

San Jose Mercury News

Filed under July 13, 2011



"I haven't heard of this level of involvement by an LGBT group in state redistricting anywhere else, which is probably due to California's new independent redistricting process."

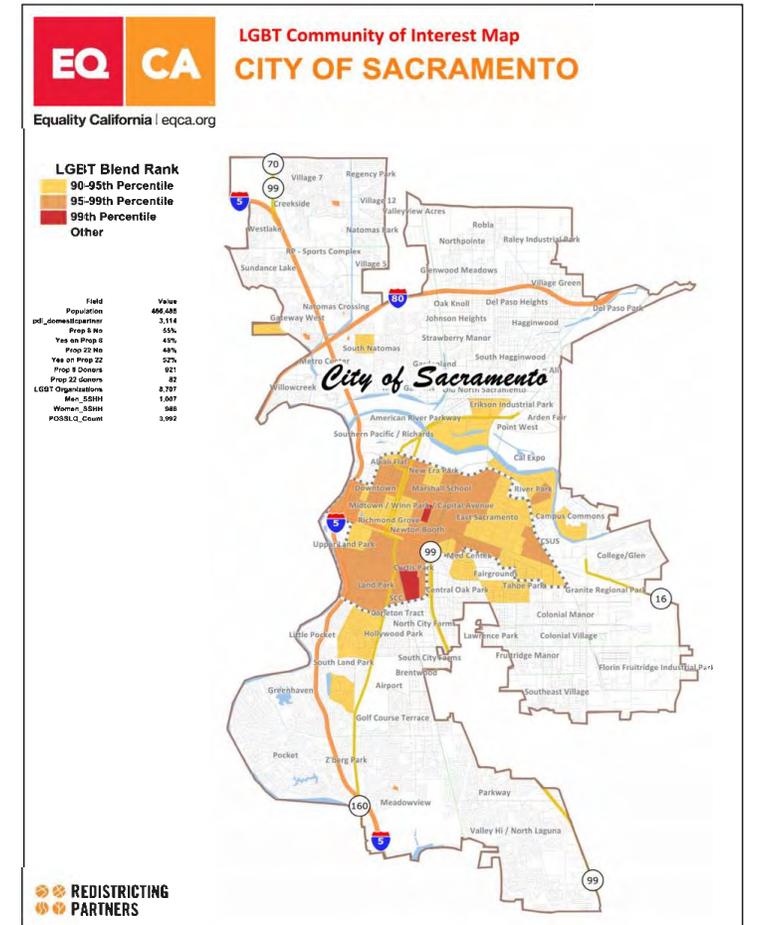
- Tim Storey of the National Conference of State Legislatures

LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN CA'S REDISTRICTING

▶ CALIFORNIA'S HISTORY



“Citing the unique issues facing Sacramento’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, Sacramento’s City Council unanimously supported a resolution that was being proposed by Stonewall as well as the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber and the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center to recognize Sacramento’s LGBTQ community as a community of interest for redistricting.”



LGBTQ+ CONTRIBUTIONS IN CA'S REDISTRICTING

▶ CALIFORNIA'S HISTORY

San Francisco Chronicle

“The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community has done an effective job of marshaling data in making the case for gayborhoods as an important factor for the commission to consider, and the lesson has not been lost on other communities seeking to have their say in the redistricting process.”

July 15, 2011

THANK YOU